

KITCASP

Key Indicators for Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning

Targeted Analysis

Inception Report | Version 06/06/2012



This report presents a more detailed overview of the analytical approach to be applied by the project. This Targeted Analysis is conducted within the framework of the ESPON 2013 Programme, partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

The partnership behind the ESPON Programme consists of the EU Commission and the Member States of the EU27, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Each partner is represented in the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

This report does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of the Monitoring Committee.

Information on the ESPON Programme and projects can be found on www.espon.eu

The web site provides the possibility to download and examine the most recent documents produced by finalised and ongoing ESPON projects.

This basic report exists only in an electronic version.

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1. Introduction

This inception report further elaborates the methodological framework for the identification, selection and application of key indicators of territorial cohesion, competitiveness and sustainable development to inform spatial planning at the national level. It provides additional detail on the analytical approach and methods presented in the project proposal, and it specifies the anticipated scope of indicators and stakeholder engagement approaches as discussed and agreed at the first TPG meeting.

The inception report also addresses the remarks made by the evaluators and stakeholders concerning our initial proposal.

2. Analytical Approach

KITCASP will seek to explore the use of territorial data in developing and monitoring national spatial strategies and other territorial development policies. A particular emphasis is placed on the application of results from other ESPON projects and the development and application of policy-relevant indicators for territorial cohesion, economic competitiveness and sustainable development to inform spatial planning at the national level.

The ESPON KITCASP project will:

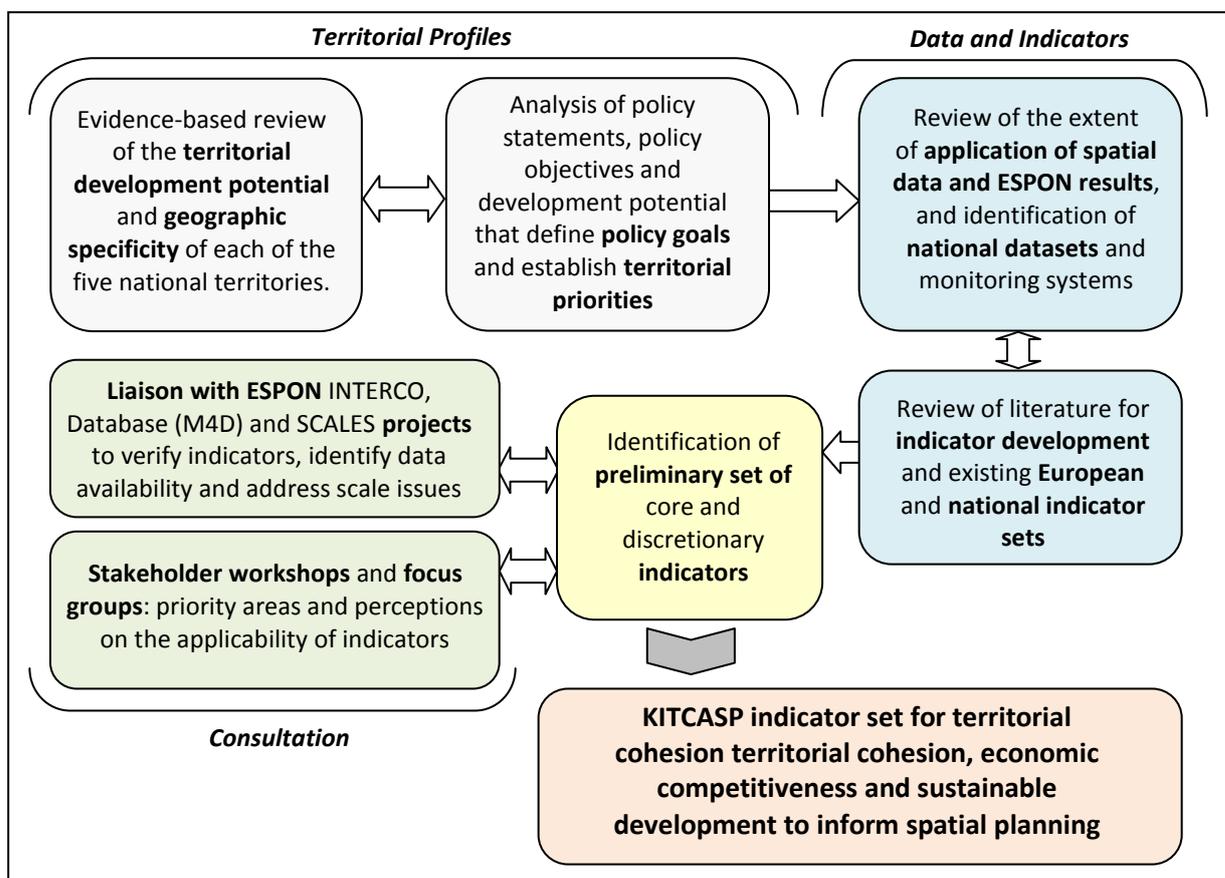
1. Review the current use of spatial data by government and public agencies in the case study nations and identify any gaps, uncertainties or limitations in the data available;
2. Examine the extent to which ESPON data has informed national spatial planning strategies and territorial development policy in each case;
3. Develop guidelines on the use of indicators and ESPON data in territorial policy development at the national level;
4. Identify a core set of key indicators of territorial cohesion, economic competitiveness and sustainable development to inform spatial planning at the national level, drawing on ESPON research and datasets available in the case studies;
5. Consider how the capacity for spatial analysis can be strengthened and harmonised at the national level; and
6. Examine how national analytical experience and expertise can help to inform and take forward the EU Territorial Agenda and the implications for future ESPON research.

The targets above are interlinked and will be achieved through a series of interconnected actions as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

The key innovation and overarching aim of the ESPON KITCASP project is the identification of the most suitable core set of key indicators of significant practical use to policy-makers and

practitioners at national and sub-national levels in the preparation of territorial development strategies.

Figure 1. Schematic representation of the analytical approach.



3. Existing ESPON Research

A number of projects conducted to date under the ESPON Programmes have focussed directly on the development of indicators and territorial monitoring frameworks for spatial planning. The results of these projects are largely applicable at national and sub-national scales, as well as at the European level.

Of particular interest to this study was a feasibility study on monitoring territorial development that was produced as one of the final outputs of the first ESPON Programme¹. The project team, led by the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) in Germany, adopted a comprehensive understanding of ‘spatial monitoring’; acknowledging the critical position of such monitoring frameworks at the interface between scientific research, policy and politics:

¹ ESPON Project 4.1.3: Monitoring Territorial Development (2006-2009)
http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_ESPON2006Projects/Menu_ScientificBriefingNetworking/

“Spatial monitoring must satisfy both the demands for an analytical base for sound spatial analysis and also for the varying political demands enabling the evaluation of policy strategies and the assessment of the achievement of policy aims” (ESPON, 2009, p. 8).

The approach of this project drew strongly on the experience of the BBR in spatial monitoring at the federal level in Germany. The BBR provides continuous spatial monitoring, making up-to-date spatial data and analysis publicly available. A CD-ROM containing maps and indicators of spatial and urban development in Germany and Europe (known as INKAR) is released annually; the 2011 edition, for example, included over 500 indicators².

KITCASP will draw on experiences and work done in the context of previous and ongoing research and, in particular, on specific ESPON projects including: Project 4.1.3 (Monitoring Territorial Development), INTERCO (Indicators of Territorial Cohesion), TPM (Territorial Performance Monitoring), PURR (Potential of Rural Regions), DATABASE (Phase II), SCALES (Breakdown and Capitalisation of ESPON Results on Different Scales) and INTERSTRAT (Integrated Territorial Strategies). In all cases, the KITCASP project will follow the lead of previous relevant ESPON projects with regards to technical and conceptual issues in order to ensure that duplication of research effort is avoided and the potential for harmonisation and complementarity is maximised.

Relevant Priority 2 Projects – Targeted Analysis

TPM – Territorial Performance Monitoring

TPM focused on undertaking an assessment and subsequently developing and applying tools for regional monitoring of four global challenges: demographic changes, climate change, a new energy paradigm and globalisation. With regards to climate change, the key concerns relate to the necessity to implement policies aimed at managing the impacts of climate change through promoting technical measures. The new energy paradigm appears as depending above all on objectives determined at European level and on policies implemented at national level. Demography mainly addresses immigration and the ageing of population; while globalisation looks at international competitiveness and economic policies.

TPM has developed a set of monitoring tools to measure and illustrate the performance of the case study regions against the above themes. TPM also provides an overview of monitoring tools that are available in the 5 study regions, which include Dublin (Ireland) and Navarra (Spain). KITCASP has the potential to avail of these tools to measure and present performance results of the selected indicators. KITCASP will liaise with ESPON TPM partners

² http://www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/DE/Veroeffentlichungen/INKAR/inkar__node.html

and look at using the developed indicators to measure how the case study nations perform across Europe.

PURR – Potential of Rural Regions

The PURR project focused on the elaboration of a methodology to identify the potential of rural regions. Despite being elaborated for a different purpose, elements of the PURR methodology can be adapted to the assessment of territorial cohesion at different spatial scales. A four step methodology was developed in PURR focusing on:

- Step 1: Benchmarking the region in its European and national context
- Step 2: Establishing the regional context and stakeholder perspective
- Step 3: Assessing the territorial potential and development perspectives for the region
- Step 4: Exploring policy options and potential actions to assist regions to achieve their territorial potential

A key element in PURR related to the need to access relevant quantitative and qualitative data. The data collection and the assessment of territorial potentials in the PURR project was structured around three thematic areas: people, place and power. The people theme focuses knowledge collection and analysis on the importance of local human capital resources. The place theme focuses on the natural resources base, natural and cultural landscapes, built infrastructures and an areas internal geographies and spatial positioning. The power stream focuses on the importance of policy structures, networks and institutions of governance and relations of power, capital and ownership. The nature of the concept implies that a broad cross-section of indicators will be required in order to reflect territorial cohesion in a meaningful way and this is confirmed by the focus of the INTERCO project on socio-economic and governance data to supplement territorial indicators. The people, place and power themes will, therefore, serve as a useful framework which will be adapted to fit the purpose of assessing territorial cohesion.

Relevant Priority 3 Projects – Scientific Platform

INTERCO – Indicators of Territorial Cohesion

Of all the completed and ongoing projects of the second ESPON Programme (2007-2013), the ESPON INTERCO project is most centrally involved in indicator development. The INTERCO project sought to balance policy-relevance and usability in measuring cohesion. In order to be policy relevant, INTERCO adopted indicators relating to territorial cohesion, complex territorial development and territorial challenges and opportunities based on issues identified in the Europe 2020 (EC, 2010), Territorial Agenda 2020 (EC, 2011) and other relevant Commission reports including the European Spatial Development Perspective (EC, 1999), TA 2007 (EC, 2007) and the Territorial State and Perspective of the EU (EC, 2005). On

the basis of a review of these EU policy documents, 6 territorial objectives were identified and a robust set of comparable indicators developed:

- strong local economies ensuring global competitiveness (indicators: labour productivity, GDP per capita in PPP, overall unemployment rate, and old age dependency ratio);
- innovative territories (indicators: population aged 25-54 with tertiary education, intramural expenditures on R&D, and employment rate 20-64);
- fair access to services, markets and jobs (indicators: access to compulsory school, access to hospitals, accessibility to grocery services, access to university, accessibility potential by road, accessibility potential by rail, and accessibility potential by air);
- inclusion and quality of life (indicators: disposable household income, life expectancy at birth, proportion of early school leavers, gender imbalances, different female-male unemployment rate, and ageing index);
- attractive regions of high ecological values and strong territorial capital (indicators: potential vulnerability to climate change, air pollution – PM10, air pollution – ozone concentrations, soil sealing per capita, mortality/hazards/risks, biodiversity, and renewable energy potential); and
- integrated polycentric territorial development (indicators: population potential within 50 Km, net migration rate, cooperation intensity, cooperation degree, and polycentric index).

The INTERCO approach places strong emphasis on sustainability (economy, environment and society) and well-being (material, health, education, personal activities, work, political voice, social connections, environment, insecurity) and this resonates to a degree with the focus identified in the KITCASP proposal on identifying indicators for territorial cohesion, economic competitiveness and, particularly, sustainable development. In order to build on the work undertaken in the context of INTERCO, KITCASP will focus on territorial challenges, policy orientations and specific issues at diverse spatial scales, in particular the European and national levels. In this way the relevance of the 6 territorial objectives and associated indicators will be re-examined for the individual case study regions and new themes/indicators identified if necessary.

For the purposes of the INTERCO project, indicators are defined as: ‘an indirect measure of a phenomenon/issue developed for a given purpose’. This definition stresses the importance of purpose and policy context of indicators, and underlines the need for clarity in relation to the purpose and rationale of selected indicators, which is very relevant for the guidelines to be produced as part of the KITCASP project. The INTERCO project furthermore distinguishes between the descriptive and constructive functions of indicators in relation to territorial entities:

- descriptive function, i.e. the characterisation of existing territorial entities, e.g. statistics by NUTS;
- constructive function, i.e. to serve as criteria for the definition of territorial entities, e.g. the delineation of regions such as mountains, islands, sparsely populated areas based on geo-physical, demographic variables and the construction of typologies of types of rural areas under the EDORA and PURR projects.

The INTERCO project expands on the above and incorporate ways in which indicators can ‘measure’ territorial cohesion, and thus examines whether the focus should be on the territorial situation, policy impacts, policy outcomes, or trends and disparities, and whether they should measure flows rather than stocks. For the purposes of KITCASP, the technical approaches resulting from INTERCO will be adopted, and both the descriptive and constructive functions of indicators will be of relevance although the focus will be primarily on their descriptive dimension.

DATABASE (Phase II)

Multi-dimensional Data Design and Development (also referred to as M4D) follows from the Phase I Database project and aims at improving utilisation of data and results emerging from ongoing projects under Priorities 1 and 2. M4D extends the time series, the scales of analysis and the thematic fields of the ESPON database. The datasets and results that will be provided through this operational database will be a key resource for KITCASP in populating the selected indicators.

Relevant Priority 4 Projects – *Transnational Networking Activities*

SCALES – BREAKDOWN AND CAPITALISATION OF ESPON RESULTS ON DIFFERENT SCALES

The SCALES project’s key aim is to develop strategies to deal with the challenges of scales within the capitalisation of ESPON results, and thus provide advice on scale-sensible use of ESPON datasets. The ‘bi/multi-lateral comparison’ strategy within SCALES sets to identify groups of (neighbouring or dispersed) areas with similar challenges or profiles that can inform territorial cohesion. It is in this context that KITCASP will liaise with the ESPON SCALES team to build on the findings of the seminars and address scale issues within the recommendations for ESPON (section 9).

INTERSTRAT - ESPON IN INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL STRATEGIES

The aim of INTERSTRAT is to encourage and facilitate the use of ESPON results and findings in the creation and monitoring of integrated territorial development strategies and to support transnational learning about the actual and potential contribution of ESPON to integrated policy-making. INTERSTRAT defines integrated territorial development as *‘the*

process of shaping economic, social and environmental change through spatially sensitive policies and programmes'. KITCASP builds on this definition by aiming to provide a set of indicators and recommendations on the use of ESPON data to contribute more integrated approaches to territorial development and thus promote territorial cohesion.

INTERSTRAT has a particular focus on transnational active learning and includes case studies of both Ireland and Scotland. The project included 17 transnational events and engaged over 13,000 practitioners, researchers and students. The knowledge sharing and transfer is considered critical for the success of KITCASP and a number of workshops and focus groups have been planned to facilitate exchanges between scientists and practitioners.

The approach of INTERSTRAT is to share tools, materials and processes that can be adapted to national circumstances while maintaining comparability and transferability across the project partners. In the context of KITCASP, the set of demonstration materials produced by INTERSTRAT will be used as the basis for illustrating how ESPON evidence and methodologies can be applied to national and regional contexts, and demonstrate the benefit of applying ESPON information to national stakeholders.

The key lesson emerging from over a decade of ESPON Research is that a great deal of high quality spatial data and indicators are available. Great strides are being made in making data and spatial analysis tools available online to practitioners 'at the coal face' preparing integrated territorial development strategies. However, monitoring needs to use indicators and tools that are intuitive and easy to use. Fewer and more meaningful focussed indicators are needed, starting with those that are relevant to spatial planning. Planners and other Integrated Territorial Development Strategy (ITDS) practitioners must be equipped in their professional training to better explain the relevance of monitoring to officials, elected members and community representatives and be able to provide assurance on the quality of evidence presented to support recommendations. In turn, there needs to be greater recognition that the political dimension is an integral part of the monitoring and evaluation process – equal to the role of policy debate – and officials and elected representatives must be trained in data analysis and interpretation.

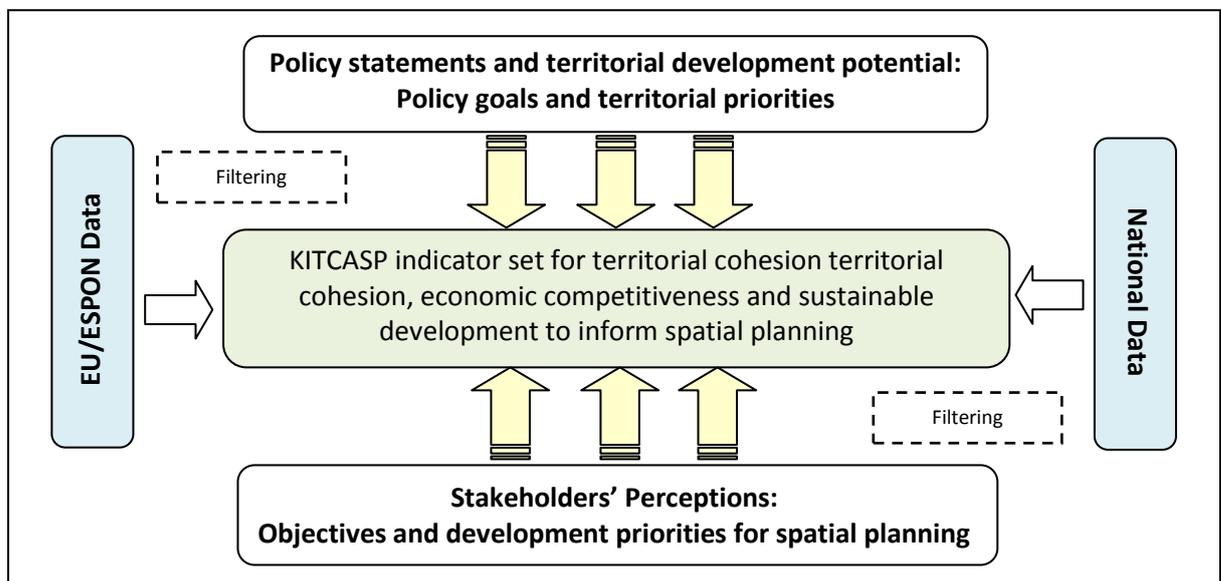
4. Methodology and Hypothesis

The aims of the project are to support evidence-based, integrated policy-making for territorial development; to identify and disseminate good practice in the use of data, indicators and indices to inform the preparation of national strategies for territorial development; to examine how ESPON findings can contribute to that process; and to explore the potential for identifying a core set of key indicators of general utility in addressing the territorial development objectives of cohesion, competitiveness and sustainable

development. The central focus of this project is the identification of the most suitable core set of key spatial planning indicators of significant practical use to policy-makers and practitioners at national and sub-national levels in the preparation of territorial development strategies.

It is proposed that the indicator development process will have two key components (Figure 2). A top-down approach will be used to define key policy priorities based on a review of policy statements and territorial development potential, as well as to establish preliminary indicators based on their relevance and applicability. A bottom-up approach will be applied to gather insights from stakeholders on policy objectives and development priorities in the context of spatial planning. These two components will converge through a detailed filtering process to determine indicator selection criteria and, therefore, provide a final set of core and discretionary indicators

Figure 2. Schematic representation of the top-down and bottom-up approaches to indicator selection.



The detailed methodology will follow the structure presented in Figure 1 above and include the following stages:

1. **Evidence-based review of the territorial development potential and geographic specificity of each of the five national territories.** The review will aid in the process of understanding the key territorial development challenges, opportunities and constraints

faced in each case study territory and the ways in which national spatial strategies and territorial development policies are responding to this context. This review will be conducted primarily through a cross-thematic analysis, taking particular inspiration from the PURR and INTERCO projects. The results of the review will include the key set of thematic areas that will feed into the process of indicator identification. The review will also aid the process of comparative analysis and ensure that all the project partners have a good understanding of the territorial context in national territory.

2. Analysis of policy statements, policy objectives and development potential that define policy goals and establish territorial priorities. The review will be followed by an in-depth and systematic analysis of the key national level policy documents in each national territory as listed in Table 1. The analysis of policy texts will be supplemented through workshops and expert interviews with key stakeholders at national level. The main objective of this analysis is to scope strategic policy objectives and establish principal territorial priorities for spatial planning. These will help refine the thematic areas and provide a critical framework for indicator development. A common reporting template will be developed by the Lead Partner to ensure comparability and consistency in methodological approach.

3. Review of the extent of application of spatial data and ESPON results, and identification of national datasets and monitoring systems. The primary focus of this analysis is to provide an assessment of, firstly, the current application of spatial data and, secondly, the application of ESPON results, in each case study nation. The findings will also feed into the filtering process for indicator identification.

4. Review of literature for indicator development and existing European and national indicator sets. Identification of indicator development methods and review of existing indicator sets at European and national level will be conducted in order to facilitate indicator development.

5. Territorial stakeholder workshops and focus groups: priority areas and perceptions on the applicability of indicators. Structured workshops and focus groups with key stakeholders in each national territory, including policymakers, strategic planners, and providers of spatial data will be undertaken to facilitate a qualitative assessment of national requirements for spatial indicators. This assessment will focus on territorial objectives and priorities for spatial planning on the basis of an interpretation of the overarching policy objectives of territorial cohesion, sustainable development and economic competitiveness in each national context and on their relationship to the territorial development challenges and development potential of each case study. This component will draw on the experience of the INTERCO and INTERSTRAT projects in using structured workshops with stakeholders to share knowledge and gain new insights on subjective understandings of policy objectives.

6. Liaison with ESPON INTERCO, Database (M4D) and SCALES projects to verify indicators, identify data availability and address scale issues. Liaison with the relevant ESPON projects will be critical in order to compatibility of approaches and in order to minimise duplication of work within the ESPON Programme.

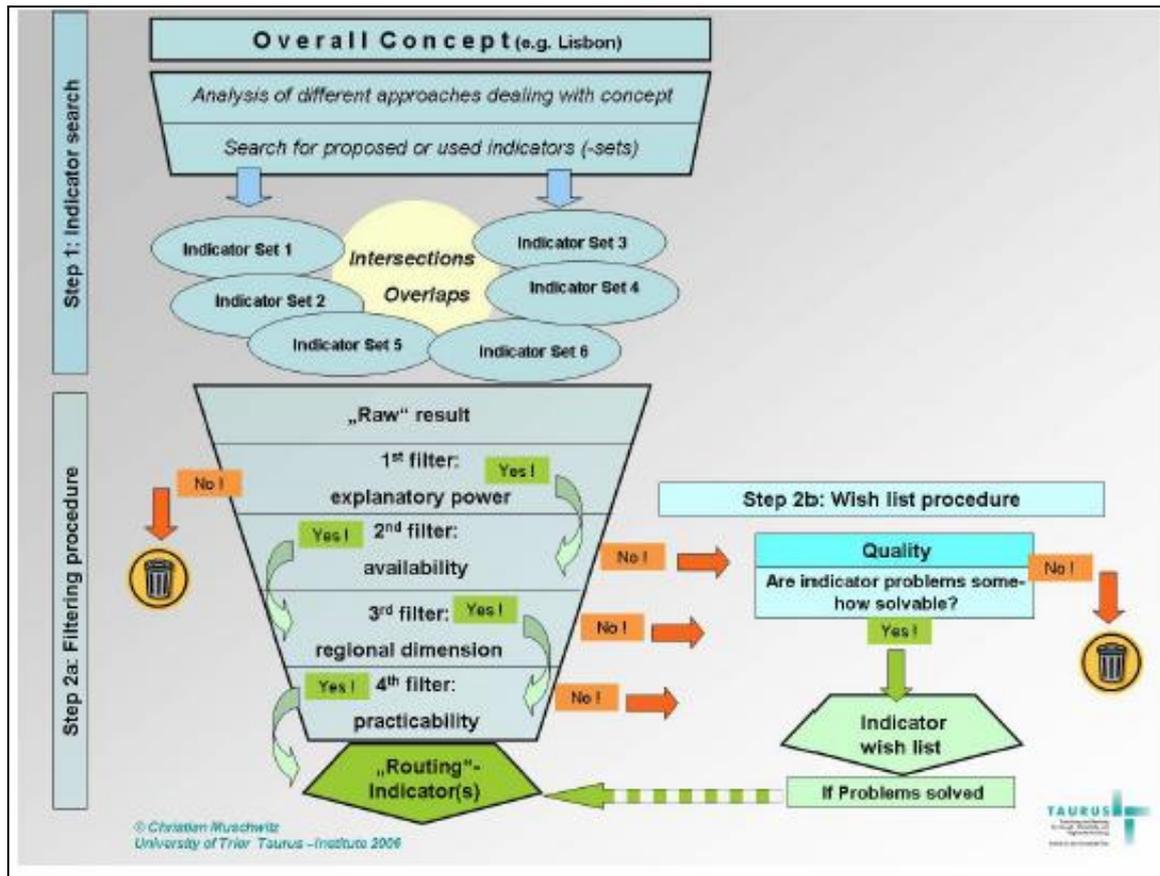
7. Identification of preliminary set of core and discretionary indicators. The preliminary set of indicators, specific to each national context, will be informed by the analysis of national policy objectives, the translation of each of the three overarching policy goals (territorial cohesion, sustainable development and economic competitiveness) into relevant themes/domains for each national territory, and stakeholders' perceptions. Previously developed ESPON indicators, will also contribute to informing the selection of a preliminary set of indicators. Indicators common to all the case studies will be identified and prioritised in the set.

8. Filtering and refinement of core and discretionary indicators. The purpose of this exercise is to ensure that the proposed indicators are assessed and adjusted to maximise their explanatory power, practicality, relevance and ease of understanding. The filtering and refinement process will also serve as a systematic check regarding data availability and spatial resolution. This will need to be done in close consultation with data providers in each national context in order to ensure the potential for 'zooming in' is maximised. Ideally, each indicator selected should be available at a higher resolution than NUTS 3 (i.e. LA1 or LA2). This filtering process draws directly on the methodology developed for this purpose under the ESPON 4.3.1 (Feasibility Study on Monitoring Territorial Development based on ESPON Key Indicators) project (see Figure 3). In relation to the technical aspects of applying ESPON results at lower spatial scales and in conjunction with national datasets, the research team will follow the advice of Database (Phase I) and consult with the TPG of the Database (Phase II) project as required.

9. Development of guidelines on the use of indicators and ESPON data in territorial policy development at the national level. These guidelines will incorporate lessons learnt from the application of the scientific approach outlined in points 1 to 8 above and also seek to outline and demonstrate examples of good practice. In recognition of the central role of the ESPON Contact Point Network in promoting awareness of ESPON results among national stakeholders and providing guidance on the application of ESPON data in a policy context, the TPG will seek to work with the relevant ESPON Contact Point in each national territory. The KITCASP research team will also seek to learn from the approaches developed under the ESPON SCALES and INTERSTRAT projects in relation to the application of ESPON results at lower spatial scales and the development of guidance materials for a policy audience.

Figure 3. Schematic representation of the filtering process (adapted from ESPON 4.1.3).





5. Review of Main Literature

The review of main literature will include policy documents, European and national indicator sets and available European and national data. Further detail is provided in the sections that follow.

5.1. Policy Documents

An in-depth and systematic analysis of the key national level policy documents, policy statements and strategies in each national territory will be undertaken to set the territorial profiles and identify the policy and development priorities that would form the platform for the development of indicators. The analysis will also address current application of spatial data, as well as the application of ESPON results, in the preparation of the relevant documents. The key documents that will be subject to an in-depth and systematic analysis are listed in Appendix A.

5.2. European and National Indicator Sets

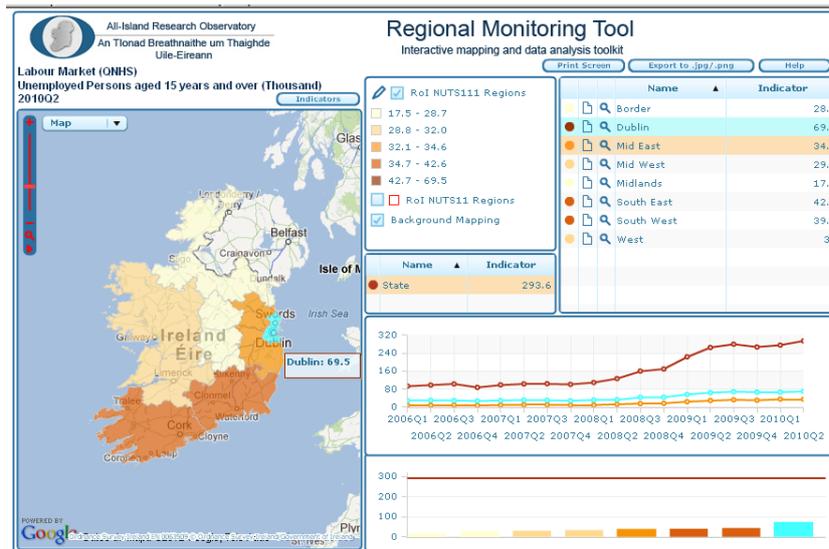
Existing international and national approaches to indicator development will be reviewed to gain insights on indicator formulation approaches, and selection and prioritisation criteria. The ESPON 4.1.3 and TPM projects are of particular relevance to the development of the indicator development selection methodology. The review will also include the work of the OECD on territorial development indicators and that of the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development in Germany, who are leaders in this field at national level. In addition, indicator development initiatives and indicators sets available at European level and in the case study nations will be reviewed and contrasted, to determine their applicability and cross-comparability.

The indicators developed as part of the INTERCO project will form the platform for defining indicators of territorial cohesion. In the context of economic competitiveness, the European harmonised competitiveness indicators (HCIs) will be considered. HCIs have been developed to provide meaningful and comparable measures of euro area countries' price and cost competitiveness that are also consistent with the real effective exchange rates of monetary values (i.e. the euro). The core set of policy-relevant indicators adopted by the European Environment Agency (EEA) will be considered as part of the sustainable development dimension. This set addresses the status or progress of environmental resources in meeting the targets established in legislation, and thus facilitates environmental reporting. Its relevance lies on the EU's environmental policy priorities, the availability of high-quality data over both time and space across member states, and the application of well-founded methods for indicator calculation.

In addition national territorial, economic and sustainability indicators sets will be reviewed. In the case of **Ireland**, relevant national and regional indicator sets include: 'Sustainable

Development Indicators for Ireland’ (Comhar, 2009); ‘Sustainability Indicators Framework’ (Dublin City Council, 2011); ‘Measuring Ireland’s Progress’ series (social and economic indicators published by the Central Statistics Office)³; ‘State of the Environment’ reports (published by the Environmental Protection Agency); and ‘Regional Planning Indicators’ (published in the AIRO Website by NIRSA – Figure 4)⁴. Indicators sets have also been developed in the context of planning and strategic environmental assessment.

Figure 4. Screenshot of Ireland’s AIRO Website illustrating an example of regional indicators.



In **Scotland**, the Scottish Government has developed a series of indicators on the context of the National Performance Framework. The Scotland Performs initiative consists of 5 strategic objectives, 16 national outputs and a set of 50 national indicators. Both the National Planning Framework for Scotland (2004 and 2009) and the associated Monitoring Reports (2006 and 2012) have drawn extensively on a diversity of sources. Substantial data and indicators sets have been developed in the context of planning and regeneration initiatives and also in the context of strategic environmental assessment. Numerous thematic indicator sets are available from the Scottish Government through the Office of the Chief Statistician. Indicator sets relating to health, education, poverty, unemployment, housing, population, crime and social / community issues draw on extensive data available including Scotland Neighbourhood Statistics. The Scotland Environment Web initiative is seeking to develop and link key indicators in relation to environmental issues including biodiversity and climate trends. The Scottish Government has also participated in a partnership with EDINA to develop and strengthen spatial data infrastructure under a broader initiative entitled ‘One Scotland: one geography, one information network’ which

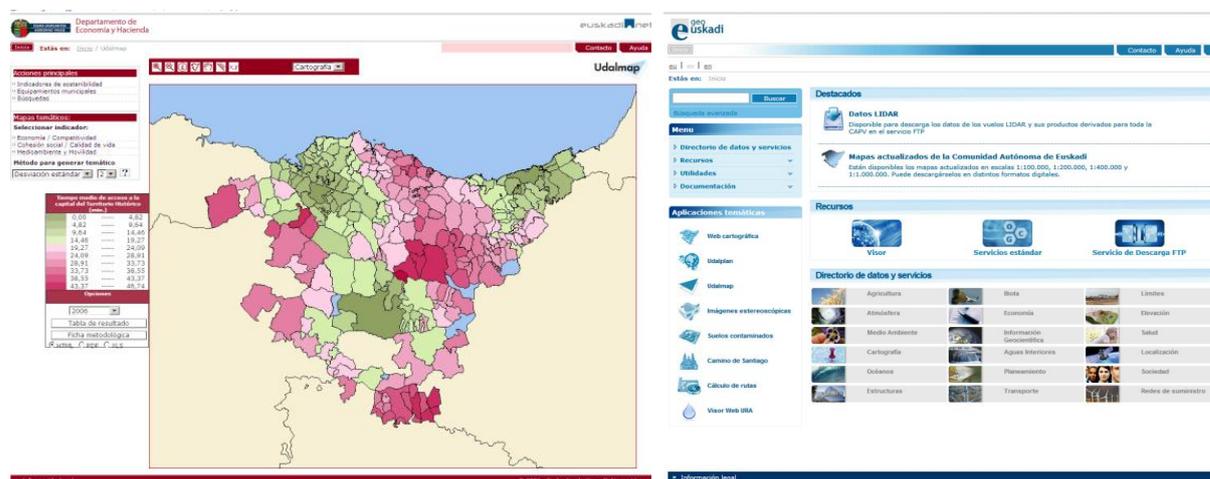
³ <http://www.statcentral.ie/viewStat.asp?id=191>

⁴ www.airo.ie

seeks to inform policy development and to ensure Scotland complies with the INSPIRE Directive.

In the case of the **Basque Country** the Environmental Strategy (Basque Government, 2002) contains a proposal for a set of European environmental and sustainable development indicators⁵, as well as a list of key environmental indicators for the Basque Country itself. Furthermore, various 'Annual Reports on Sustainability'⁶ have been prepared. Of particular relevance is the set of 166 indicators used under the *Udalmap* interactive GIS⁷ available through the GeoEuskadi geoportal, which operates at the spatial scale of the 251 Basque municipalities. These are organised under the 3 strategic headings of: economy and competitiveness; social cohesion and quality of life; and environment and mobility.

Figure 5. Screenshots of the Basque Country's Udalmap (left) and GeoEuskadi geoportal (right).



At the wider spatial scale of Spain as a whole, it is relevant to refer to the sustainability indicators used by the Observatory of Sustainability in Spain (OSE)⁸ for the elaboration of its annual reports⁹. These indicators are applied at the NUTS II level (i.e. the Basque Country in its entirety).

⁵ These 36 indicators relate to economic background (6), employment (6), innovation (6), economic reform (6), social cohesion (6) and environmental aspects of sustainable development (6).

⁶ http://www.ingurumena.ejgv.euskadi.net/r49-5832/es/contenidos/plan_programa_proyecto/eavds_pma/es_9688/informes_sostenibilidad.html

⁷ http://www.ogasun.ejgv.euskadi.net/r51-udalmap/es/contenidos/informacion/udalmap/es_udalmap/udalmap.html#

⁸ <http://www.sostenibilidad-es.org/es/indicadores>

⁹ <http://www.sostenibilidad-es.org/es/informes/informes-anales>

In **Latvia**, indicator sets and monitoring are provided as part of the annual 'Report Development of Regions in Latvia' (published by State Regional Development Agency – SRDA) and the 'Regional Economic Profiles' prepared by Latvian Academy of Sciences. Useful economic indicators are included the 'Report on the Economic Development of Latvia' (published by Ministry of Economics). Qualitative social, cultural and political indicators can be found in annual 'Human Development Reports' (published by The Advanced Social and Political Research Institute), and several surveys commissioned under the National Identity research program. 'Health Care Indicators' are measured by the National Health Service. Other datasets and statistics are available from various sources as presented in section 5.3. For **Iceland**, relevant national and regional indicators are included in: 'Environment and Resources, Are We Heading towards Sustainable development?' [Umhverfiogauðlindir, Stefnumvið í áttílsjálfbærrarþróunar?] (Ministry for the Environment, 2009); 'The State of the Environment' [Ástandumhverfisins], which includes a set of sustainability indicators that are published on the web page of the Environment Agency of Iceland (<http://www.ust.is/einstaklingar/astand-umhverfisins/>); and 'Social, Environmental and Economic Indicators of Sustainability' an initiative of the Icelandic National Power Company and Alcoa.

5.3. Available Spatial and Non-Spatial Datasets at EU and National Level

One of the critical aspects determining indicator selection will be availability of data to support the measurement of indicator performance (see section 6). KITCASP will review existing spatial and non-spatial indicators at European and national level. A preliminary inventory of available datasets is provided in sections 6.2 and 6.3 below.

6. Scope of Indicators and Supporting Datasets

Given the importance of national policy contexts and the need to respond to distinct territorial development challenges and priorities, it is considered that a one-size fits all approach to indicator development is not appropriate. Although KITCASP places a key emphasis on comparative analysis and mutual learning from good practice across the case studies, the goal is not full harmonisation of approaches under one generic model or set of indicators.

In order to address commonalities and divergences between the case study nations and the need to tailor indicators to context-specific policy and development priorities, KITCASP will provide a set of indicators that distinguishes between *common* indicators (i.e. those applicable to all the case studies and seamlessly transferable to other European member states) and *discretionary* indicators (i.e. case-specific indicators of high policy relevance that could become transferable to other countries if data gathering and monitoring

arrangements were put in place). Common indicators will form the core set of headline indicators comparable across the case study nations, which will avail from ESPON data and other data collation initiatives at the European level. Discretionary indicators will be part of a suite of sub-headline indicators that link with national policies and development priorities, and which are measured consistently over time (but are not currently monitored in all the case study nations). Indicator benchmarking will be undertaken at NUTS III level, where feasible; NUTS II level benchmarking will be undertaken where sufficient data for NUTS III level assessment are not available.

In addition, a distinction will be made between *process* and *outcome* indicators. Process indicators seek to measure the effects of a policy, strategy or concept within the governance system. This type of indicator relates to an understanding of territorial cohesion as a process for coordinating the spatial impacts of sectoral policies (also known as Territorial Policy Integration). Similarly 'sustainable development' may be understood as a framework for integrating the environmental dimension into other sectoral policies (Environmental Policy Integration). Outcome indicators in contrast seek to measure spatial development outcomes. Although it may be difficult to attribute particular outcomes to specific policy interventions (as the effects of spatial policies are often linked to other governance interventions and influenced by underlining social, economic and environmental change processes), such indicators do provide a necessary evidence base for future policy intervention.

Specific criteria will be applied for the selection of indicators. The conceptual framework presented in the project proposal has been further developed and the following criteria have been defined to set the scope of indicators and their supporting datasets:

- Indicators have a **clear rational and purpose**; they address the policy context and serve to provide an assessment and interpretation of territorial development dynamics, patterns and trends in light of specific policy objectives around territorial cohesion, economic competitiveness and sustainable development.
- Indicators **link to European, national and regional policy** and, therefore, are linked to future targets and development priorities, providing suitable information to promote change.
- They are relevant and thus **provide a means of assessing the performance of integrated territorial development strategies** and thus have the potential to demonstrate the added value of place-based approaches.
- They **provide spatially-specific results** as in so far possible in order to facilitate information transfer and application in spatial planning.
- Indicators are **regularly measured** and sufficient data are accessible to monitor progress and performance; monitoring procedures are in place or could be planned.

- They **provide information sensitive to change on a timely manner** within the policy-making and planning processes.
- Indicators **communicate the results** of scientific analysis and research to policy-makers in a **concise and accessible manner**. In this way, they are a core element of territorial planning, monitoring systems and reports.

6.1. Use of Existing ESPON and Other Relevant Spatial Data and Indicators

KITCASP builds on the work carried out under previous ESPON projects, prioritising the utilisation of data and results emerging from past and ongoing projects under Priorities 1 and 2. Nevertheless, as described in the project proposal, the application of spatial data and indicators (deriving from either ESPON or other sources) in the preparation and monitoring of spatial policy in each case study nation is currently rather limited.

Ireland

In Ireland, a number of initiatives have focussed on monitoring and indicator development at both national and regional levels since the publication of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), but there is no formal territorial monitoring system in place. The two NUTS II Regional Assemblies jointly produced a Gateway Development Index which sought to measure progress in the key Gateways identified in the NSS and which draws on fine-scale quantitative spatial data (this index is currently under review). The eight NUTS III Regional Authorities are currently in process of developing a common framework for monitoring and indicator development in relation to the implementation of Regional Planning Guidelines, which provide a direct link between the NSS and local authority planning. This monitoring framework is supported by the work of the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO), a data portal and research unit which focuses on making spatial data, derived from multiple public sector sources accessible to policy-makers and practitioners at local, regional and national levels. It is recognised as a key spatial data infrastructure for the evidence-based spatial planning on the island of Ireland. In addition, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government has launched an online GIS for systematically compiling and coordinating land-use zoning information and other spatial planning data at the national level (www.myplan.ie). This is a vital tool for national level monitoring and oversight. At central government level, ESPON results are viewed as important conceptualising Ireland's location within Europe. As such, analyses of transportation accessibility and integration in European networks are of particular interest.

Scotland

In Scotland, the preparation of the Scottish National Planning Framework (2004) was supported by nationally available socio-economic and demographic data, but the document

primarily adopted an objectives-led approach. Moreover, although it focuses on a limited number of issues that have a clear spatial dimension, it contains no specific quantitative targets. This defined the nature of the 2006 Monitoring Report, which provided a qualitative discussion of the issues identified supplemented by quantitative statistics and data. The 2006 Monitoring Report informed the review and revision process that resulted in the publication of the 2009 National Planning Framework and a new Monitoring Report has just been published in 2012. This Monitoring Report emphasises the relevance of research undertaken in the context of the ESPON Programme and discusses issues in relation to economic and social trends, housing supply, the built and natural environment, transport, energy, waste management, water, environment and flooding and finally communications technology.

The Action Programme associated with the revised National Planning Framework identifies a range of 80 specific actions across a range of themes and for different spatial areas. Many of these actions are highly strategic though some are much more specific relating to a particular development or the provision of a particular piece of infrastructure. This makes some actions quantitative and easily measurable, but many are qualitative and therefore more ambiguous and difficult to measure.

Basque Country

In the Basque Country, a geo-portal hosted by the Department of the Environment, Physical Planning, Agriculture and Fisheries – responsible for the elaboration of the Spatial Planning Guidelines, the Environmental Programme Frameworks – provides free access to all spatial and territorial data of the Basque Country. It incorporates a variety of applications including a Cartographic website; Udaplan, which provides spatial data on different land use activities at the spatial scales of the municipalities, the functional areas, the three Provinces (NUTS III regions) and the Basque Country (NUTS II region) as a whole; and Udalmap which is a map-based municipal information system which provides temporal data on a number of indicators for all the municipalities of the Basque Country under the headings of economy/competitiveness, social cohesion/quality of life and environment/mobility. Despite the maturity and sophistication of this platform, there is a distinct absence of a systematic process of cross-referenced territorial monitoring of spatial planning in the Basque Country. Although the Modifications to the Spatial Guidelines (2011) address “territorial indicators”, these indicators are very basic and provide no means of monitoring questions of cohesion, competitiveness and sustainable development. ESPON data and results are rarely applied, given the breadth and scope of the territorial data available to support planning and decision-making.

Latvia

In Latvia, the Territory Development Level Index has been key indicator used in spatial planning for more than a decade. It is a standardized synthetic indicator that combines demographic and socioeconomic indicators and reflects the relative development level of territories. In 2010, the Territory Development Level Alteration Index was developed to account for changes in spatial development compared to average development level of the previous year. Current development assessment methods focus on economic growth, placing less importance on sustainability and cohesion. Together with an improved model of spatial planning, a new model of spatial development indicators is being developed, which will be accompanied by a more informative monitoring system analytically oriented towards examining different development issues and territorial potentials. The methodology is currently being developed by State Regional Development Agency (SRDA) and will be implemented together with Regional Development Indicator Monitoring System (RDIMS) – a tool for monitoring and evaluating territorial development tendencies. Representatives of SRDA involved in making of RDIMS are stakeholders in KITCASP project and will have opportunity to add new or revised existing indicators to RDIMS.

A significant basis for Latvian case study in KITCASP is a research the “Perspectives and directions of economic development of regions in Latvia 2010-2011” report prepared by the Institute of Economics, Latvian Academy of Science is of relevance to the project as it provides economic perspective for each planning region and, therefore, could provide additional information on the definition of economic indicators for territorial cohesion. Another important basis for the Latvian case study in KITCASP is the study “Methodological Solutions in Regional Policy and Territorial Development Assessment” (Konsorts, 2009)¹⁰. The study reviews existing development indicators and offers new indicators that can be used for development planning in national and regional level in Latvia. Of high relevance is the review of ESPON 2006 project results and their possible application in Latvia commissioned by SRDA in 2008¹¹. The study relied on expert evaluation of different indicators, which will be of relevance to the context of this project. So far, the use of ESPON data in policy-making has been limited in Latvia. Nevertheless, the Latvian ESPON contact point has been active in disseminating information about ESPON results and building a policy-community in Latvia.

Iceland

¹⁰ Valsts reģionālās attīstības aģentūra (2009). *Reģionālās politikas un teritoriju attīstības novērtēšanas metodoloģiskie risinājumi*. Laila Kūle, Uldis Osis, Ināra Stalidzāne, Tālis Tisenkopfs, Aivars Timofejevs, Kaspars Timofejevs.

¹¹ Valsts reģionālās attīstības aģentūra (2009) *Eiropas Komisijas ESPON2013 programmas īstenošanas Latvijā iespēju analīze, izvērtēšana un priekšlikumu pētniecības virzieniem un uzdevumiem sagatavošana saskaņā ar programmā noteiktajiem mērķiem, prioritātēm un plānotajām rīcībām*. Gala ziņojums. Center of Spatial and Regional Development of Riga Technical University.

In Iceland, shortcomings with regards to monitoring of the strategic regional development plans have been an issue, and regional level statistics are too limited to thoroughly analyse socio-economic development of individual regions. Data is increasingly being collected and published at NUTS III level, but they are not sufficient to monitor regional differences. There are plans to monitor how successfully Iceland 2020 policy statement is being implemented, which will be measured on the basis of the established 15 objectives. With the advent of Iceland 2020, the focus has somewhat shifted from addressing regional differences within Iceland towards the international position of the country and its competitiveness. In addition, monitoring of various spatial indicators is likely to be required for the Iceland's National Spatial Plan. According to regulations, the Icelandic National Planning Agency shall put forward a programme on how it will monitor the state's overarching policy on planning issues and the individual land use plans. As for previous ESPON projects, Iceland has relatively recently joined the network (in 2007) and, as a result, data and indicators from projects is yet rather sporadic.

All the case studies reflect a limited current use of spatial data and, in particular, ESPON results and indicators to inform and monitor policy and plan implementation. In the light of this, it can be concluded that there is considerable scope to incorporate ESPON results and spatial evidence to support and build upon the existing strong base of territorial and environmental policy initiatives in the case study nations. KITCASP will identify opportunities and make recommendations to improve ESPON data use and applications in addressing territorial objectives and policies.

6.2. Relevant European Datasets

Data collated through previous ESPON projects (particularly Database Phase II, INTERCO, TPM and PURR) and the regional database of Eurostat will form the platform for measuring the selected indicators. Additional European datasets (e.g. CORINE land use change, soil sealing, water status or air quality) will be obtained from other transnational data agencies such as the European Environmental Agency.

6.3. Relevant National Datasets

A number of datasets have been identified as potentially relevant for territorial analysis and spatial planning at a more detailed level (i.e. NUTS II, III and beyond). These are listed in Appendix B; it is anticipated that this list will expand and change as the project progresses.

6.4. Existing National Territory Monitoring Arrangements

Existing monitoring programmes will be reviewed in detail to examine the availability of time-bound indicator-relevant datasets at national level. KITCASP will aim at developing a suite of indicators that can be measured over time to gain insights on patterns and trends.

As such, it is critical to identify European and national monitoring arrangements. A preliminary review of existing monitoring arrangements provides the following findings:

- There is no centralised territorial monitoring system in place in **Ireland**. The Environmental Protection Agency provides an overall monitoring of the status of environmental resources and of environmental compliance. Additional monitoring systems are being currently developed under AIRO and MyPlan (see Sections 5.2 and 6.1 above).
- A monitoring system has been put in place to measure progress of implementing the National Planning Framework in **Scotland**. Although mostly qualitative in nature, the assessment of spatial strategy issues is supplemented by regularly gathered quantitative statistics and data.
- In the **Basque Country**, GeoEuskadi is available – a GeoPortal hosted by the Department of the Environment, Physical Planning, Agriculture and Fisheries, responsible for the elaboration of the Spatial Planning Guidelines, the Environmental Programme Frameworks and the host of complementary environmental strategies. The highly advanced Spatial Data Infrastructure seeks to proportion free access to all spatial and territorial data of the Basque Country. It incorporates a variety of applications including: a Cartographic website; Udalplan, which provides spatial data on different land use activities at different spatial scales; and Udalmap, which is a map-based municipal information system providing temporal data on a number of indicators for all the municipalities of the Basque Country under the headings of economy/competitiveness, social cohesion/quality of life and environment/mobility.
- Centralized territorial monitoring system is not implemented in **Latvia**. There is a database with prepared and accepted spatial plans, territorial development programs and amount of finance resources for spatial planning in local municipality level and in the level of planning regions. Since 1999, territories are monitored using the Territorial Development Index. Environmental monitoring is performed for water, air pollution, biodiversity and other relevant topics.
- Monitoring in **Iceland** is most active around natural hazards, notably earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and avalanches. Overall monitoring of natural resources takes place to a certain degree, particularly for climate and air and water quality.

6.5. Data Sharing Consideration

Data collated within the KITCASP project will be made available in a centralised system and shared among project partners through an online file sharing portal. Datasets will be made available at the end of the project subject to copyright and licensing issues within the stakeholders regions.

7. Territorial Profiles

The identification of a core set of indicators for territorial cohesion, economic competitiveness and sustainable development will be based on the territorial profiles of the case studies in line with national planning frameworks, development challenges and policy objectives.

The territorial profiles are intended to provide a qualitative description of the case study nations supplemented by some quantitative data to describe their context and offer insights into why certain areas may focus more on certain priorities / objectives / indicators rather than others. Although the assessment of key territorial development challenges and policy objectives of the individual national case studies will be adapted to specific local context, it will be structured in order to facilitate their comparative analysis as follows:

- Overview of key characteristics of the case studies within their European and national contexts;
- Assessment of key territorial development challenges and specific issues in each national context;
- Assessment of territorial policy orientations and objectives in each national context; and
- Review of the current use of spatial data and indicators (including ESPON).

As part of providing an **overview of key characteristics** of the case study, each case study territory will be placed within its broader European context through a process of spatial positioning. Spatial positioning has the potential to facilitate new insights and identify possible new opportunities and relationships. First each territory will be placed within its European context and use will be made here of diverse ESPON typologies (including the urban – rural, performance and structural typologies). Once the territory has been positioned within its broader European context, the key elements of the national context will be described, in order to provide a framework for assessing the commonalities and differences in the characteristics between the case studies. A brief overview of the spatial structure and territorial characteristics (within the place, people and power framework) of the case study nations will be therefore provided using quantitative and qualitative data, along with their NUTS classification. The key elements of the national context will be structured under the following headings:

Place

- Location, spatial characteristics and spatial structures
- accessibility
- economic profile
- natural resources and qualities

- landscape resources and qualities

People

- demographic indicators (total population, population dynamics, structure, densities)
- education, skills and training (educational attainment, population with tertiary education)
 - research and innovation capacity (extent and distribution of higher education opportunities)
 - access to services
 - inclusion, quality of life, health and well being
 - strength of social and cultural capital

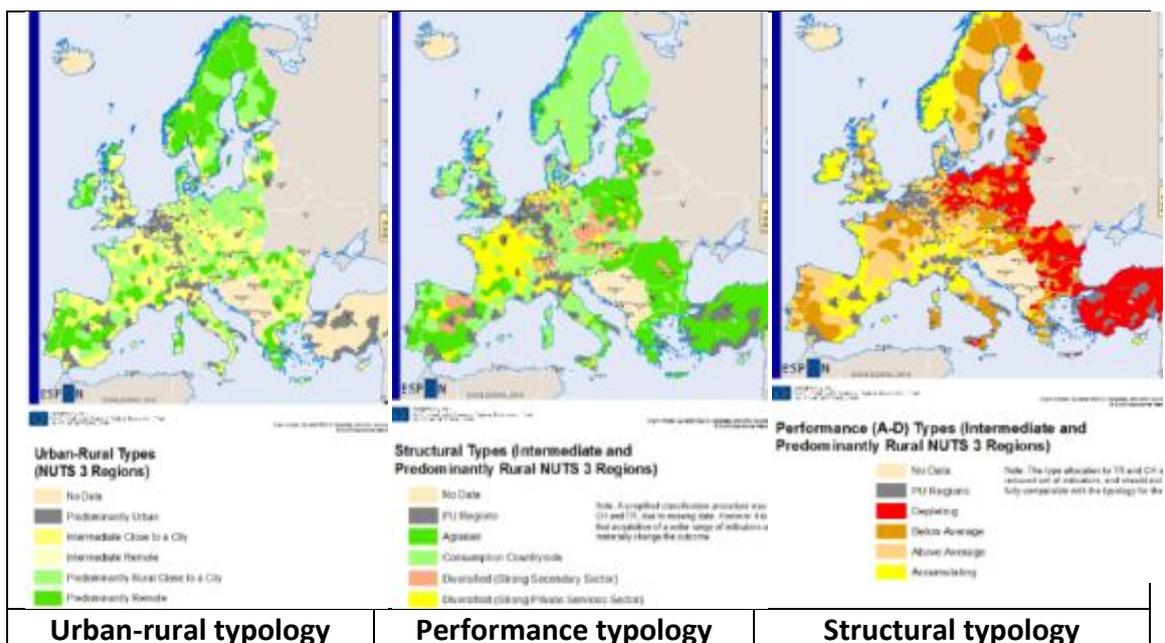
Power

- institutional and governance structure(s)
- key documents relating to territorial development
- extent of engagement with EU programmes and projects
- extent and nature of NGO, community and voluntary sector
- political context and extent of political engagement
- extent of endogenous and exogenous capital and financing

The **key territorial development challenges** will be identified on the basis of a review of the national spatial policy documents and any other relevant spatial analysis. This will be followed by an assessment of **territorial policy orientations and objectives** based on a review of relevant documents, which will be supplemented with stakeholders' interviews, focus groups and/or workshops (refer to Section 8 for further detail).

The review of relevant national spatial policy documents and the identification of data and indicators used in the preparation of such documents will form the basis for determining **current use of spatial data and indicators** in each of the case study nations. This will include identifying the territorial level and year that the data / indicators are available at. Appendix C provides a brief introduction to the territorial profiles of each of the case study nations. These will be further developed as the project progresses. Figure 6 presents a preliminary analysis of the ESPON typologies which help situate the case study territories within the broader European context.

Figure 6. ESPON typologies (Source: EDORA Final Report).



8. Development Potential Criteria: Establishing Priorities

Territorial profiles, in their provision of policy objectives and development potential, will form the basis for identifying and determining spatial planning priorities in the case study territories. These will be further refined by discussion and agreement with project and territorial stakeholders. The priorities will be formulated as themes or domains, for which specific indicators will be subsequently developed (see Section 4). Therefore, the thematic areas will form a critical framework for indicator selection. The establishment of priorities will be achieved through a participative approach as described in section 9.

9. Engaging Practitioners

On the basis of ESPON 4.3.1 findings, KITCASP will aim to address the commonly differing perceptions of indicators by scientists and policy-makers. Although indicators largely depend on context it is considered that, in general, policy-makers or politicians tend to view indicators in a subjective way, interpreting information as benchmarks or thresholds, whereas scientists tend to view indicators as neutral and objective. In order to ensure that selected indicators are fully applicable and understandable by policy-makers, KITCASP will actively engage with stakeholders throughout the course of the project to factor in their perspectives and perceptions. Close consultation will be achieved through a number of workshops and focus groups in each of the case study nations as described below. Consultation approaches will aim at promoting individual participation (e.g. questionnaires or work-sheets will be used to gather individual perceptions and opinions) as well as group

participation (e.g. key issues will be presented to encourage open discussions and focus groups will be stimulated by a set of predetermined semi-structured questions).

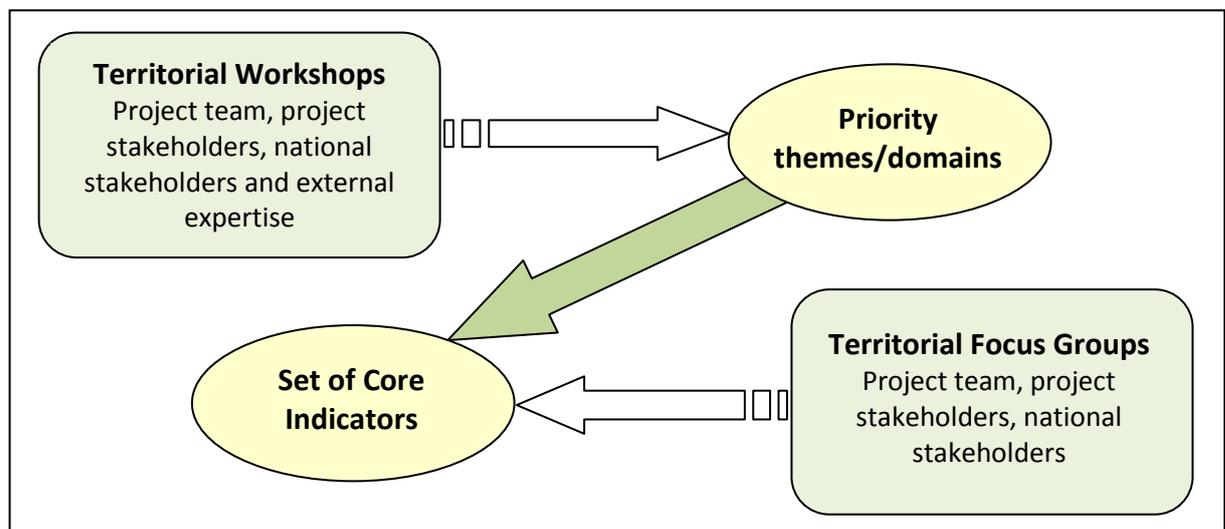
9.1. Proposed Workshops

The first round of consultation will be facilitated by structured workshops for an early engagement of stakeholders. The workshops will include presentations on the territorial profile (including comparative analysis against the rest of the case study nations), as well as on policy and development priorities. The main objective of the workshops will be to agree on the priority areas for each of the case study territories (e.g. priority themes/domains) by gaining further insight into the development potential of the case studies and key areas of action. In addition, discuss potential data needed to provide an evidence-base for decision-making on such domains will be discussed, and a preliminary set of indicators defined. These workshops will be followed by focus groups for filtering the proposed set of indicators (Figure 7).

The workshops will provide a working platform between the project partners, the project stakeholders and other relevant territorial stakeholders. The workshops will be limited to a maximum of 15 people in each of the case studies to encourage meaningful participation. Participants will be selected on the basis of their specific knowledge and potential for contribution to the project. The preliminary list of proposed stakeholders presented in Appendix D will be used to initiate contact; it is anticipated that the list of individuals will change as the project develops.

In addition, external expertise will be invited along to the second workshop to provide insights and input into indicator development and selection.

Figure 7. Key components and outcomes of the participatory approach.



9.2. Proposed Focus Groups

The second round of consultations within each case study will be undertaken using focus group techniques. Focus groups provide the means for qualitative analysis of perceptions, opinions and standpoints towards a given theme. They will be facilitated by a moderator and semi-structured using a set of questions defined *a priori*, which will be presented to stimulate debate and encourage discussion among group members rather than to obtain individual answers. The main objective of these focus groups will be to ascertain consensus on the national policy and development priorities, as well as on the applicability of key indicators that respond to or are associated with such priorities. The focus groups should result on an agreed final set of indicators for each territory.

The focus groups will bring together a small group of stakeholders (between 4 and 8 people). The group will include project stakeholders and other key stakeholders who will have participated in the workshops (Section 9.1). Individuals will be selected on the basis of their specific contribution to the project.

10. Distribution of Work Packages Among Partners

Work package 1 on the coordination and management of the project will be carried out by the lead partner. All partners will contribute to work packages 2 and 3 as described in Section 10.1 below.

10.1. Roles and Tasks

The project partners' roles and tasks for each of the work packages will be as follows:

WP1: Coordination and Project Management	
Partner	National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), National University of Ireland Maynooth.
Role	Coordination and Project Management
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective and efficient coordination and management of the project.• Administering the incomes and expenditures of the project in line with the proposed budget (including financial flow and audit trail).• Administering the logistics of the project, including deliverables, in line with the Specifications and the proposed timetable.• Securing that the scientific quality of each deliverable is in line with accepted standards, addresses comments and feedback from

	<p>stakeholders, and sets within the limits of the Specifications and the project proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing fruitful discussions among project partners and stakeholders which contribute to the project's aims.
Time-frame	02/2012 – 07/2013

WP2.1: Concept Refinement, Scientific Approach and Technical Support	
Partners	<p>National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA). London South Bank University. Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences. Technical University of Catalonia. University of Akureyri Research Centre.</p>
Role	<p>Ensure the work is conducted according to an agreed research design, conceptual framework and scientific approach which systematically build on the work of previous studies and good practice examples both within and outside of the ESPON framework.</p>
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement of the research design and methodological approach. • Consultation among project partners and stakeholder steering committee to agree on final methodological approach. • Development of a centralised system for collating spatial data and indicators from each of the case studies. • Design of an approved ESPON template for the preparation of maps.
Time-frame	02/2012 – 04/2013

WP2.2 to WP2.6: Territorial Profiles of the Case Studies	
Partners	<p>National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA). London South Bank University. Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences. Technical University of Catalonia. University of Akureyri Research Centre.</p>
Role	<p>Targeted analysis of territorial profiles, data and indicators.</p>
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of key territorial development challenges and territorial policy objectives in each national context. • Analysis of the key territorial policy objectives at the national level and an overview of their application across sectoral policy areas. • Review current use of spatial data and indicators at national level including assessment of current ESPON influence.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a core set of indicators for territorial cohesion, economic competitiveness and sustainable development in line with national understandings and policy objectives. • Interactive engagement with the stakeholders within each national territory.
Time-frame	04/2012 – 12/2012

WP2.7: Comparative Analysis	
Partners	National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA). London South Bank University.
Role	Comparative analysis of territorial profiles, policy and development priorities, and indicators for cross-national horizontal learning among the stakeholders.
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative analysis of territorial profiles, policy and development priorities, and indicators. • Identification of examples of good practice to inform the preparation of guidelines on the use of indicators and ESPON data in territorial policy development at the national level. • Development of interactive dialogue and strong working relationships among the stakeholders, and between the research team and stakeholders.
Time-frame	11/2012 – 04/2013

WP3: Dissemination	
Partners	National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA). London South Bank University. Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences. Technical University of Catalonia. University of Akureyri Research Centre.
Role	Targeted analysis
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant dialogue with stakeholders. • Preparation of ‘guidelines on the use of indicators and ESPON data in territorial policy development at the national level’. • Preparation of ‘recommendations on the framing and deployment of ESPON data and indicators in addressing territorial objectives’. • Preparation of the inception report, interim report and final report. • Organising and running the ESPON KITCASP Project Conference, scheduled to take place in July 2013.

Time-frame	11/2012 – 07/2013
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10.2. Break-down of Project's Budget

The detailed project budget has already been transmitted to the ESPON CU. Annex III of the Transnational Project Group Partnership Agreement which provides detailed project budget is enclosed with this Inception Report.

11. Overview of Detailed Project Outputs

As detailed in the project proposal, the final KITCASP report will include two key deliverables:

- 'Guidelines and Recommendations for National Stakeholders' – The preparation of these guidelines on the use of indicators and ESPON data in territorial policy development at the national level will be informed by the lessons learnt from the case studies. Specific guidelines will be produced within the context of each case study, tailored to address the specific needs of the stakeholders. In addition a general set of guidelines will be produced which will identify transferable lessons and results applicable in other national contexts and indeed of relevance to stakeholders at multiple levels of governance. Recommendations will also be provided for strengthening and harmonising spatial analysis capacity at the national level, addressing means for better access to, take up, and application of ESPON data and methodological parameters. Recommendations will be made on:
 - best practices in the handling and application of data in support of territorial policy;
 - the means by which stakeholders can improve and optimise their use of ESPON data;
 - what indicators best measure territorial cohesion, competitiveness and sustainable development;
 - the resolution of issues around comparability, reliability, accuracy and general effectiveness of spatial data in support of territorial policy; and
 - the relevance and potential of GIS based platforms for the delivery and improvement of spatial indicators.

- 'Recommendations for ESPON' – These recommendations will provide specific guidance on the framing and deployment of ESPON data and indicators in addressing territorial objectives, in support of the broader ESPON research and policy application processes

and objectives. Attention will be drawn to the means for overcoming dataset limitations, especially issues around availability, comparability, interpretation and compatibility. These recommendations will address the question of scale. Specific recommendations will be made on the optimal means for ensuring the continuous improvement, including updating, of spatial data, at the national level and through ESPON data frameworks. In general the recommendations will be crafted both to address methodological and technical issues – as necessary –, and the broader policy applications findings and imperatives that emerge from the research project.

In addition, KITCASP will provide:

- A core set of headlines indicators applicable in all case studies and transferable to other member states. These will be complemented with a subset of indicators applicable across Europe for which data limitations may currently exist. Recommendations for populating such indicators will be made for the case study nations as part of the deliverables above.
- An inventory of datasets supporting the relevant indicators and, where feasible, direct links to such datasets.
- A web-based data portal or centralised system for collating spatial data and indicators from each of the case studies. The data portal will be based on a web-platform similar to that of AIRO, developed by the lead partners (see Figure 4); it will address data sharing considerations.
- A set of maps illustrating the performance of selected indicators for each of the case studies.

12. Orientation of the Project Previewed towards the Interim Report

The work programme during the next months until the interim report on the 31st of October 2012 will include the following:

- Completion of quantitative and qualitative description of territorial profiles;
- Definition of development potential criteria;
- Review of European and national indicators sets;
- Identification of ESPON and non-ESPON datasets available;
- Preliminary identification of indicators for territorial cohesion and spatial planning on the basis of identified territorial development priorities; and

- Stakeholders' workshops on policy priorities and applicability of proposed indicators.

13. Dissemination of Project Findings and Gathered Data

Dissemination of project findings will be underpinned by constant dialogue with the project stakeholders. In addition, the lead partner will work very closely with the lead stakeholder in relation to the coordination of dissemination activities as well as liaising with the ESPON Coordination Unit. The project closing conference in Scotland, planned for July 2013, will represent a key platform for disseminating the project findings and deliverables.

The recommendations will also address dissemination of project findings, with specific capacity building proposals for training stakeholders and local authority members on the use of indicators (e.g. interpretation and application of indicator results) and monitoring. The objective of such recommendations would be the enhancement of systems of governance through skills training.

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